



Encouraging someone dying to say: "La ilaha illa Allah" (Talqin)

Third question from Fatwa No. 3159

Q 3: I know that it is not permissible to perform Talqin after death. A great number of scholars in our country permit doing so. They cite Al-Shafi`y Madh-hab (School of Jurisprudence) as evidence. I referred to the book "Nayl Al-Awtar by Al-Shawkany who remained silent concerning this matter without any comment except his saying that this saying was regarded as permissible by some of the Shafi`iyah. What is the solution for this case?

A: The soundest opinion according to scholars is that reciting Talqin after death is not permissible.

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Moreover, it is a Bid`ah (rejected innovation in religion) and every Bid`ah is a misguidance. What is reported by Al-Tabarany in his book called Al-Kabir on the authority of Sa`id Ibn `Abdullah Al-Awdy from Abu Umamah (may Allah be pleased with him) concerning the Talqin of the dead after burying him is also mentioned by Al-Haythamy in the second and third volume of Majma` Al-Zawa'id. Al-Haythamy said that "there are a group of transmitters in the chain of the transmission of this Hadith whom I do not know". Therefore, we can not cite this Hadith as evidence for the permissibility of Talqin after death. Doing so is a rejected Bid`ah. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: ("He who innovates things in our affairs for which there is no valid (reason) (commits sin) and these are to be rejected.") The Madh-hab of any of the Imams such as Al-Shafi`y is not to be considered as evidence for proving legal rulings. What is deemed as evidence is the Qur'an, the Sunnah of Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) and Ijma` (consensus) of the Muslim Ummah (nation). There are no authentic narrations about Talqin after death. Therefore, it is not permissible to do so.

Encouraging a person who is dying to say: "La ilaha illa Allah" (there is no deity but Allah) by making him repeat it after a person who says it is permissible. It is permissible to do so in order that the last words the dying person utters is La ilaha illa Allah. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said this to his uncle Abu Talib. But he refused to say it. The last words that were said by Abu Talib were: "I am believing in the religion of `Abdul-Muttalib."

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions!

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